

Serial No.: 09/550,878
Attorney Docket No.: F-118

Patent

Amendment To The Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-23 (canceled).

24. (currently amended) A postage metering system, comprising:

a printing system including a printer for printing on an item intended for a recipient located at a remote location;

a data center in operative communication with the printing system, the printing system being located remotely from the data center, the data center including a plurality of advertiser accounts, each of the plurality of advertiser accounts including respective message data representative of a message;

a control system in operative communication with the data center and the printing system for:

obtaining recipient information; and

using the recipient information to identify a subset of messages available for printing on the item.

25. (previously presented) The system of claim 24, wherein:

the control system is further for:

receiving from a user an indication of a selected message from the subset of messages that the user authorizes for printing.

26. (previously presented) The system of claim 25, wherein:

the control system is further for:

compensating the user for printing the selected message; and

charging the advertiser account corresponding to the selected message for printing the selected message.

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Attorney Docket No.: F-118

Patent

27. (previously presented) The system of claim 26, wherein:

each of the plurality of advertiser accounts further includes restriction data;

and

the control system is further for:

using the recipient information in combination with the restriction data from the plurality of advertiser accounts to identify the subset of messages available for printing.

28. (previously presented) The system of claim 27, wherein:

each of the restriction data, respectively, includes addressee restriction data, including at least information relating to one of the following:

commercial/residential restrictions; demographic restrictions and geographic restrictions, and non-addressee restriction data, including at least information relating to one of the following: piece count restrictions; multi-ad restrictions; date restrictions; ad space zone restrictions and budget restrictions.

29. (previously presented) The system of claim 28, wherein:

the recipient information includes address information obtained from the user.

30. (previously presented) The system of claim 24, wherein:

each of the plurality of advertiser accounts further includes restriction data;

and

the control system is further for:

using the recipient information in combination with the restriction data from the plurality of advertiser accounts to identify the subset of messages available for printing.

31-44. canceled.